

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2631**  
**315 a & b Lennox Avenue**  
**East Towson, Baltimore County**  
**Circa 1910**  
**Private**

The dwelling at 315 a & b Lennox Avenue was constructed circa 1910 by Fanny Young in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Fronting south, this large double-pile twin dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot with a hedgerow and a chain link fence lining the front of the property. The building sits on a solid poured concrete foundation, is two stories in height, and is four bays wide with two separate entrances. The entries contain single-leaf paneled-with-lights doors with square-edged surrounds. Covering the first-story of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with turned wood posts. Seen on the western half of the façade are three 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows. The eastern half contains three 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows. Rising above the hipped roof is one interior stretcher bond brick chimney. The roof features overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles. One circa 1980s prefabricated corrugated sheet metal shed with a front gable roof is associated with this property.



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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. BA-2631

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Fronting south, this large double-pile twin dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot with a hedgerow and a chain link fence lining the front of the property. This two-story building sits on a solid parged concrete foundation, and is four bays wide with two separate entrances. The entries contain single-leaf paneled-with-lights doors with square-edged surrounds. Covering the first-story of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with turned wood posts. Seen on the western half of the façade are three 6/1 double-hung wood sash windows. The eastern half contains three 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash windows. Rising above the hipped roof is one interior stretcher bond brick chimney. The roof features overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles. One circa 1980s prefabricated corrugated sheet metal shed with a front gable roof is associated with this property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2631

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1910 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1910 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 315 a & b Lennox Avenue was constructed circa 1910 by Fanny Young in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Several of the freestanding structures in East Towson are twin dwellings, surreptitiously providing multiple-family housing on narrow rectangular building lots typically occupied by single-family houses. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2631

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.05 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 315 a & b Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 491 since its construction circa 1910.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, J. Bunting, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	December 27, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

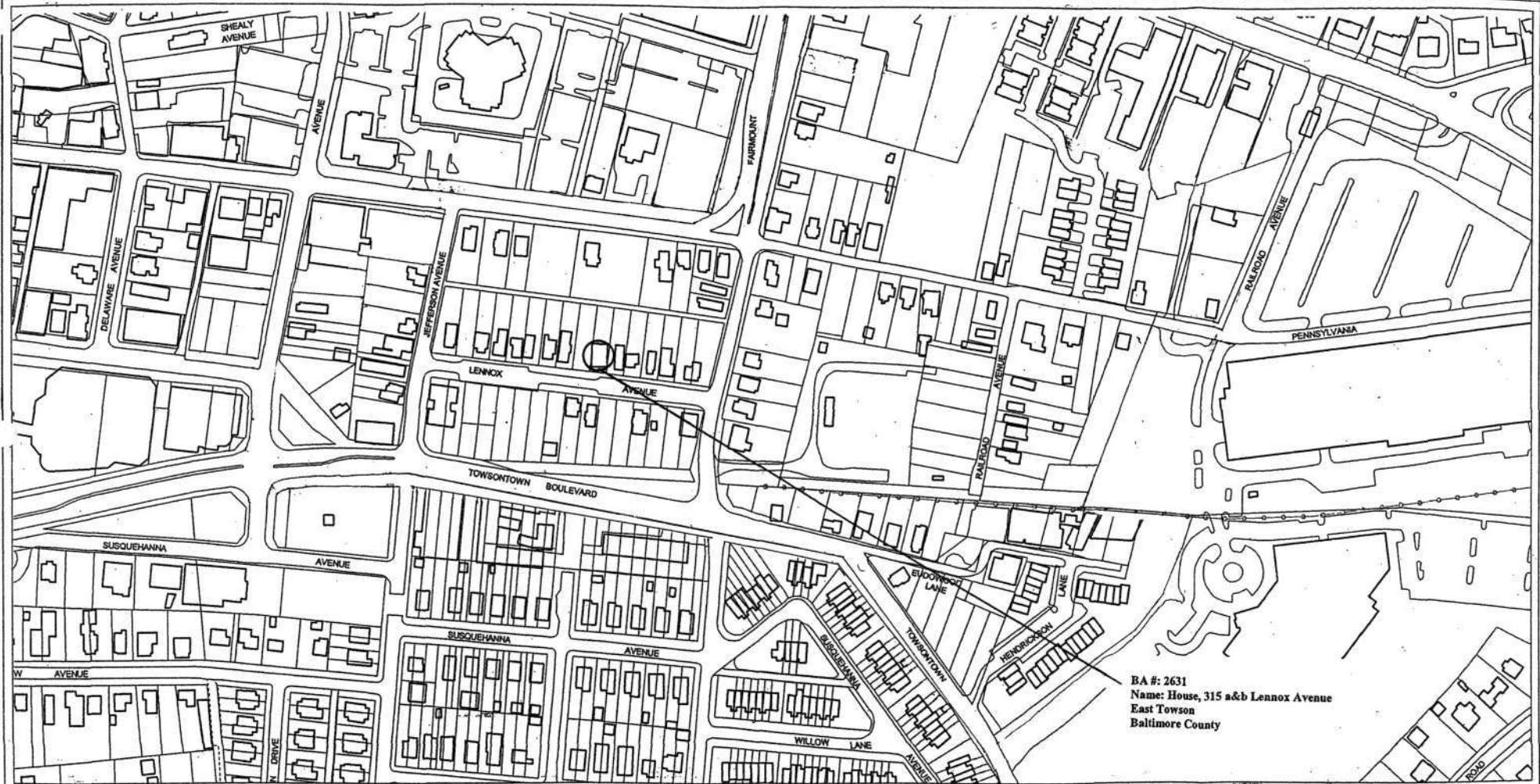
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 2631  
Name: House, 315 a&b Lennox Avenue  
East Towson  
Baltimore County



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

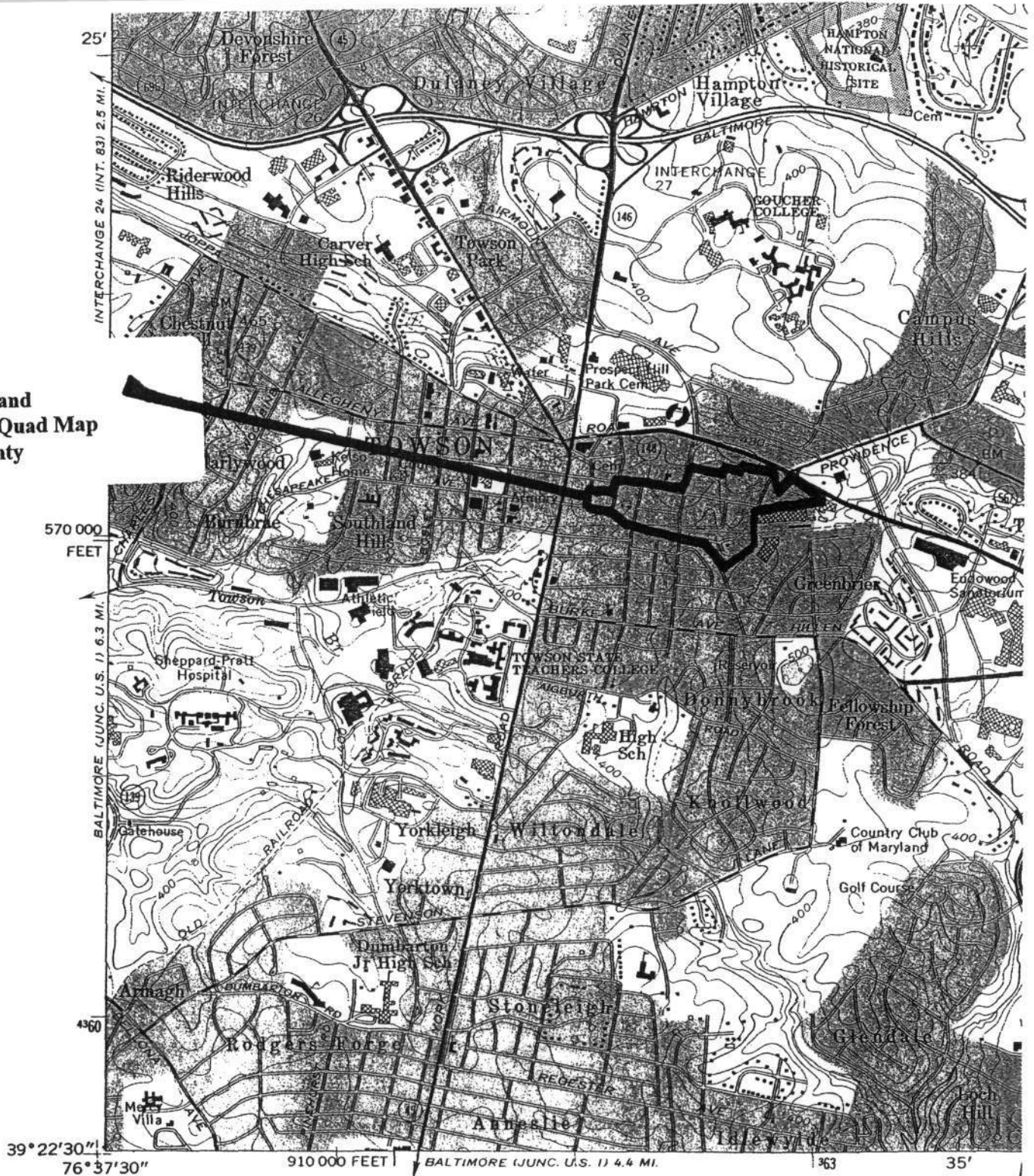
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

- |                           |                     |                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads               | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads             | Buildings           | Vegetation            |
| Paved Parking / Driveways |                     |                       |

Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD83 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1996  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

East Towson  
Towson, Maryland  
Towson USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
5562 / SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

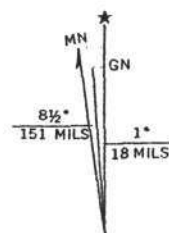
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA-2631

TWIN DWELLING, 315A & B LENNOX AVENUE

Baltimore County, MD

TRAILERIES

16/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



BA-2631

TWIN DWELLING, 315 a & b LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

(10/2001)

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-2631

TWIN DWELLING, 315 a & b LENOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER

3 & 3



9403074

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Myers Cottage

BA-2631

Property Name: 315-A Lennox Avenue, Towson, Maryland Survey Number: BA-1008

Property Address: 315-A Lennox Avenue, Towson, Maryland

Project: Rehabilitate 315-A Lennox Ave. Agency: CDBG/Balt. Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no    yes Name                      Date                     

District Name: East Towson Survey District Survey Number: BA-2564

   Listed    X Eligible Formal DOE 9/26/80 Comment                     

Criteria: X A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G    None

The resource X contributes/   does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

X Location    Design X Setting    Materials

   Workmanship X Feeling X Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The house at 315-A Lennox Avenue is a contributing resource in the National Register Eligible East Towson Historic District. The residential district of late 19th and early 20th century housing was developed and settled by freed blacks. The house at 315-A Lennox Avenue is half of a duplex which probably dates to the period 1906-15 when Lennox Avenue was developed. Lennox Avenue contains the best Victorian-era houses of the area.

Documentation on the property is presented in: Project File

Prepared by: JohnMcGrain

Elizabeth Hannold December 28, 1994  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes    no    not applicable  
F. Anderson 1-5-95  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*gmg*

Survey No. BA-2631

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- ☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- ☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture  
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic, single family residence

Known Design Source: na



BA-2631

